

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

April 1, 2021

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Stan Ketchum
San Benito County Resource Management Agency
2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister, California 95023
sketchum@cosb.us

Subject: John Smith Road Landfill Expansion Project (Project)

Notice of Preparation (NOP)

State Clearinghouse No: 2021020371

Dear Mr. Ketchum:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a NOP for a draft Environmental Impact Report from San Benito County for the above-referenced Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under Fish and Game Code. While the comment period may have ended, CDFW would appreciate if you will still consider our comments.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's **Trustee Agency** for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statue for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (*Id.*, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

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¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

CDFW is also submitting comments as a **Responsible Agency** under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. As proposed, for example, the Project may be subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.). Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in "take" as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), related authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code will be required.

Nesting Birds: CDFW has jurisdiction over actions with potential to result in the disturbance or destruction of active nest sites or the unauthorized take of birds. Fish and Game Code sections that protect birds, their eggs and nests include sections 3503 (regarding unlawful take, possession or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird), 3503.5 (regarding the take, possession or destruction of any birds-of-prey or their nests or eggs), and 3513 (regarding unlawful take of any migratory nongame bird).

In this role, CDFW is responsible for providing, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts (e.g., CEQA), focusing specifically on Project activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. CDFW provides recommendations to identify potential impacts and possible measures to avoid or reduce those impacts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Proponent: Waste Solutions Group of San Benito, LLC

Objective: The proposed project includes a 388.05-acre expansion of the existing 95.16-acre John Smith Road Landfill (JSRL). This expansion would increase the landfill's disposal capacity, expand the total waste footprint, increase the maximum permitted elevation of the final landfill, and increase the maximum permitted daily tonnage accepted at the JRSL. To accommodate these changes, several operational changes are also being proposed. These include expanding the landfill entrance area to accommodate additional daily vehicle arrivals and reduce vehicle queuing on John Smith Road, expanding areas for recycling and the County's Household Hazardous Waste program, establishing an area for the future installation of a gas-to-energy facility, and clean closing the current Class I area owned by the City of Hollister and converting it to a disposal area for Class III waste. Additionally, the proposed project

would potentially include the use of a portion of the San Benito County property located south of John Smith Road for habitat mitigation purposes.

Location: The proposed project site is located at the JSRL and on lands directly east, north and west of the JSRL. The JSRL is located at 2650 John Smith Road approximately 2 miles directly east of the eastern boundary of the City of Hollister. The site is located in a hilly grassland/rural area east of the Hollister Valley and west of the rural Santa Ana Valley in unincorporated San Benito County.

Access to the site is provided from John Smith Road. The existing 95.16-acre JSRL includes two parcels owned by San Benito County that total 90.05 acres (Assessor Parcel Numbers [APN] 025-190-073 and 025-190-074) and one 5.11-acre parcel owned by the City of Hollister (APN 025-190-072). The two county-owned parcels contain an operating Class III landfill. Class III landfills only accept non-hazardous waste for disposal. The City of Hollister parcel includes a closed Class I waste disposal area covering less than an acre. Class I landfills may accept both hazardous and nonhazardous wastes for disposal. The County also owns 101.3 acres directly south of the JSRL and John Smith Road (APN 025-190-075).

Timeframe: N/A

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the following comments and recommendations to assist San Benito County in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Editorial comments or other suggestions may also be included to improve the document.

There are several special-status resources that may utilize the Project site and/or surrounding area, and these resources may need to be evaluated and addressed prior to any approvals that would allow ground-disturbing activities. CDFW is concerned regarding potential impacts to special-status species including, but not limited to, the Federally endangered and State threatened San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), the Federally and State threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), the State threatened tri-colored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), the State Species of Special Concern American badger (*Taxidea taxus*) and the western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*).

I. Environmental Setting and Related Impact

Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

COMMENT 1: San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF)

Issue: SJKF occurrences have previously been documented within the proposed Project boundary (CDFW 2021). The Project has the potential to temporarily disturb and permanently alter suitable habitat for SJKF and directly impact individuals if present during construction and other activities.

SJKF den in a variety of areas such as grassland, agricultural and fallow/ruderal habitat, and dry stream channels, and populations can fluctuate over time. SJKF are also capable of occupying urban environments (Cypher and Frost 1999). The Project site is

situated in a seismically active geologic province. Soil disturbance activities associated with individual Project elements could increase soil erosion or affect soil stability. The stability of the expanded landfill could be affected by seismic activities or soil instability. SJKF may be attracted to Project areas due to the type and level of ground-disturbing activities and the loose, friable soils resulting from intensive ground disturbance. SJKF will forage in grassland, fallow and agricultural fields and utilize stream channels as dispersal corridors. Santa Ana Creek is approximately 1.1-miles northwest of the Project site. As a result, there is potential for SJKF to occupy suitable habitat in the vicinity of the landfill area.

Specific impact: Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for SJKF, potential significant impacts associated with construction include habitat loss, den collapse, inadvertent entrapment, reduced reproductive success, reduction in health and vigor of young, and direct mortality of individuals.

Evidence impact is potentially significant: Habitat loss resulting from land conversion to agricultural, urban, and industrial development is the primary threat to SJKF (Cypher et al. 2013). The Project vicinity contains suitable habitat including grassland and a stream channel which could be utilized as a dispersal corridor. Therefore, subsequent ground-disturbing activities have the potential to significantly impact local SJKF populations.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

To evaluate potential impacts to SJKF associated with subsequent land conversion, ground disturbance and construction, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, incorporating the following mitigation measures into the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared for this Project, and that these measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: SJKF Habitat Assessment

For all Project-specific components including construction and land conversion, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a habitat assessment in advance of Project implementation, to determine if the Project area or its immediate vicinity contains suitable habitat for SJKF.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 2: SJKF Surveys

If suitable SJKF habitat is present on or adjacent to the Project site, CDFW recommends assessing presence/absence of SJKF by having qualified biologists conduct surveys of Project areas and a 500-foot buffer of Project areas to detect SJKF and their sign. CDFW also recommends following the USFWS "Standardized recommendations for protection of the San Joaquin kit fox prior to or during ground disturbance" (2011).

Recommended Mitigation Measure 3: SJKF Take Authorization

SJKF detection warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take or, if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) prior to ground-disturbing activities, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b).

COMMENT 2: California Tiger Salamander (CTS)

Issue: CTS are known to occur in the vicinity of the Project area (CDFW 2021). Review of aerial imagery indicates the presence of several wetted/pond features in the Project's vicinity that have the potential to support breeding CTS. In addition, the Project area or its immediate surroundings may support small mammal burrows, a requisite upland habitat feature for CTS.

Specific Impacts: Aerial imagery shows that the proposed Project site has upland habitat which may function as breeding habitat. There is a pond approximately 1.3-miles east of the Project site, and another ponded area approximately 1-mile southwest that could provide breeding habitat. Potential ground- and vegetation-disturbing activities associated with Project activities could potentially include: collapse of small mammal burrows, inadvertent entrapment, loss of upland refugia, reduced reproductive success, reduction in health and vigor of eggs and/or young, and direct mortality of individuals. In addition, depending on the design of any activity, the Project has the potential to result in creation of barriers to dispersal.

Evidence impact would be significant: Up to 75% of historic CTS habitat has been lost to urban and agricultural development (Searcy et al. 2013). Loss, degradation, and fragmentation of habitat are the primary threats to CTS. Contaminants and vehicle strikes are also sources of mortality for the species (CDFW 2015, USFWS 2017). This Project would result in greater vehicle traffic entering and leaving the landfill due to the proposed expansion. Increased vehicle traffic could lead to an increase in vehicle strikes to this species, particularly during the rainy season. The Project site is within the range of CTS and has suitable habitat (i.e., grasslands interspersed with burrows and ponded areas). CTS have been determined to be physiologically capable of dispersing up to approximately 1.5 miles from seasonally flooded wetlands/ponds (Searcy and Shaffer 2011) and have been documented to occur near the Project site (CDFW 2021). Given the presence of suitable habitat potentially within, and adjacent to the Project site, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to significantly impact local populations of CTS.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

Because suitable habitat for CTS is present in the vicinity of the Project site, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, incorporating the following mitigation measures into the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared for this Project, and that these measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 4: Focused CTS Protocol-level Surveys

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct protocol-level surveys in accordance with the USFWS "Interim Guidance on Site Assessment and Field Surveys for Determining Presence or a Negative Finding of the California Tiger Salamander" (USFWS 2003) at the appropriate time of year to determine the existence and extent of CTS breeding and refugia habitat. The protocol-level surveys for CTS require more than one survey season and are dependent upon sufficient rainfall to complete. As a result, consultation with CDFW and the USFWS is recommended well in advance of beginning the surveys and prior to any planned vegetation- or ground-disturbing activities. CDFW advises that the protocol-level survey include a 100-foot buffer around the Project area in all areas of wetland and upland habitat that could support CTS. Please be advised that protocol-level survey results are viable for two years after the results are reviewed by CDFW.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 5: CTS Avoidance

If CTS protocol-level surveys as described in Mitigation Measure 4 are not conducted, CDFW advises that a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer be delineated around all small mammal burrows in suitable upland refugia habitat within and/or adjacent to the Project site. Further, CDFW recommends potential or known breeding habitat within and/or adjacent to the Project site be delineated with a minimum 250-foot no-disturbance buffer. Both upland burrow and wetland/pond breeding no-disturbance buffers are intended to minimize impacts to CTS habitat and avoid take of individuals. Alternatively, the applicant can assume presence of CTS within the Project site and obtain from CDFW a ITP in accordance with Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b).

Recommended Mitigation Measure 6: CTS Take Authorization

If through surveys it is determined that CTS are occupying or have the potential to occupy the Project site, consultation with CDFW is warranted to determine if the Project can avoid take. If take cannot be avoided as described in Mitigation Measure 5, take authorization would be warranted prior to initiating ground-disturbing activities to comply with CESA. Take authorization would occur through the acquisition of an ITP issued by CDFW, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b). As stated above, in the absence of protocol surveys, the applicant can assume presence of CTS within the Project site and obtain an ITP from CDFW.

Comment 3: Tri-colored Blackbird (TRBL)

Issue: TRBL occurrences have been documented near the Project site (CDFW 2021). Per CNDDB records, there was an occurrence of TRBL observed immediately south of the Project site previously. TRBL colonies require suitable nesting habitat, nearby freshwater, and nearby foraging habitat including semi-natural grasslands, agricultural

croplands or alkali scrub (Beedy et al. 2017). Habitat surrounding the Project area may provide suitable foraging habitat for TRBL and a pond located approximately 1.3-miles from the Project site, and another approximately 1-mile from the Project site, may be suitable nesting habitat.

Specific impact: Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for TRBL, potential significant impacts associated with Project activities include nest and/or colony abandonment, reduced reproductive success, and reduced health and vigor of eggs and/or young.

Evidence impact would be significant: The Project vicinity contains elements that have the potential to support TRBL nesting colonies. TRBL aggregate and nest colonially, forming colonies of up to 100,000 nests (Beedy et al. 2017). This species has been steadily declining due to annual breeding losses due to crop-harvesting activities, insufficient insect resources, and habitat loss due to land conversion for agriculture, rangeland, and urban development (Beedy et al. 2017).

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

To evaluate potential Project-related impacts to TRBL, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, incorporating the following mitigation measures into the environmental impact report (EIR) prepared for this Project, and that these measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 7: TRBL Surveys

CDFW recommends that Project activities be timed to avoid the normal bird breeding season (February 1 through September 15). However, if Project activities must take place during that time, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct surveys for nesting TRBL no more than 10 days prior to the start of implementation to evaluate presence/absence of TRBL nesting colonies in proximity to Project activities and to evaluate potential Project-related impacts.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 8: TRBL Avoidance

If an active TRBL nesting colony is found during preconstruction surveys, CDFW recommends implementation of a minimum 300-foot no-disturbance buffer in accordance with CDFW's "Staff Guidance Regarding Avoidance of Impacts to Tricolored Blackbird Breeding Colonies on Agriculture Fields in 2015" (CDFW 2015). CDFW advises that this buffer remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that nesting has ceased, the birds have fledged, and are no longer reliant upon the colony or parental care for survival. It is important to note that TRBL colonies can expand over time and for this reason, the colony should be reassessed to determine the extent of the breeding colony within 10 days for Project initiation.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 9: TRBL Take Avoidance

In the event that a TRBL nesting colony is detected during surveys, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take, or if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b), prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

COMMENT 4: American Badger (AMBA)

Issue: AMBA are known to occur in the Project vicinity (CDFW 2021). Badgers occupy sparsely vegetated land cover with dry, friable soils to excavate dens, which they use for cover, and that support fossorial rodent prey populations (i.e. ground squirrels, pocket gophers, etc.) (Zeiner et. al 1990). The area directly adjacent to the Project site may support these requisite habitat features, and with the landfill being expanded, the Project has the potential to impact AMBA.

Specific impact: Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for AMBA, potentially significant impacts associated with ground disturbance include direct mortality or natal den abandonment, which may result in reduced health or vigor of young.

Evidence impact is potentially significant: Habitat loss is a primary threat to AMBA (Gittleman et al. 2001). The Project has the expectation to expand, resulting in 388.05-acres of land conversion and potential habitat fragmentation. As a result, ground-disturbing activities have the potential to significantly impact local populations of AMBA.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

To evaluate potential impacts to AMBA associated with the Project, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, incorporating the following mitigation measures into the EIR prepared for this Project, and that these measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 10: AMBA Surveys

If suitable habitat is present, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for AMBA and their requisite habitat features (dens) to evaluate potential impacts resulting from ground- and vegetation-disturbance.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 11: AMBA Avoidance

Avoidance whenever possible is encouraged via delineation and observation of a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around dens until it is determined through non-invasive means that individuals occupying the den have dispersed.

COMMENT 5: Western spadefoot (WESP)

Issue: WESP inhabit grassland habitats, breed in seasonal wetlands, and seek refuge in upland habitat where they occupy burrows outside of the breeding season (Thomson et al. 2016). Review of aerial imagery indicates that the Project vicinity contains these requisite habitat elements.

Specific impact: WESP are known to occur in the area (CDFW 2021). There are several ponded areas and Santa Ana Creek near the Project area. Without appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for western spadefoot, potentially significant impacts associated with ground disturbance include; collapse of small mammal burrows, inadvertent entrapment, loss of upland refugia, reduced reproductive success, reduction in health and vigor of eggs and/or young, and direct mortality of individuals.

Evidence impact is potentially significant: Habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from agricultural and urban development is the primary threat to western spadefoot (Thomson et al. 2016). The Project area is within the range of western spadefoot, contains suitable upland habitat (i.e., grasslands interspersed with burrows) and breeding habitat (i.e., vernal pools/ponds and the seasonal creek listed previously). As a result, ground-disturbing activities associated with development/enlargement of the Project site have the potential to significantly impact local populations of this species.

Recommended Potentially Feasible Mitigation Measure(s)

To evaluate potential impacts to WESP associated with the Project, CDFW recommends conducting the following evaluation of the Project site, incorporating the following mitigation measures into the EIR prepared for this Project, and that these measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 12: WESP Surveys

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for WESP and their requisite habitat features to evaluate potential impacts resulting from ground- and vegetation-disturbance.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 13: WESP Avoidance

Avoidance whenever possible is encouraged via delineation and observance of a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around burrows. If WESP are observed on the Project site, CDFW recommends that Project activities in their immediate vicinity cease and individuals be allowed to leave the Project site on their own accord. Alternatively, a qualified biologist with appropriate take authorization can move them out of harm's way and to a suitable location.

II. Editorial Comments and/or Suggestions

Nesting birds: CDFW encourages that Project implementation occur during the bird nonnesting season; however, if ground-disturbing or vegetation-disturbing activities must occur during the breeding season (February through mid-September), the Project applicant is responsible for ensuring that implementation of the Project does not result in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or relevant Fish and Game Codes as referenced above.

To evaluate Project-related impacts on nesting birds, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct pre-activity surveys for active nests no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground or vegetation disturbance to maximize the probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected. CDFW also recommends that surveys cover a sufficient area around the Project sites to identify nests and determine their status. A sufficient area means any area potentially affected by the Project. In addition to direct impacts (i.e., nest destruction), noise, vibration, and movement of workers or equipment could also affect nests. Prior to initiation of construction activities, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a survey to establish a behavioral baseline of all identified nests. Once construction begins, CDFW recommends having a qualified biologist continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the Project. If behavioral changes occur, CDFW recommends halting the work causing that change and consulting with CDFW for additional avoidance and minimization measures.

If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified wildlife biologist is not feasible, CDFW recommends a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or on-site parental care for survival. Variance from these no-disturbance buffers is possible when there is compelling biological or ecological reason to do so, such as when the construction areas would be concealed from a nest site by topography. CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist advise and support any variance from these buffers and notify CDFW in advance of implementing a variance.

Federally Listed Species: CDFW recommends consulting with the USFWS on potential impacts to federally listed species including, but not limited to, San Joaquin kit fox and California tiger salamander. Take under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) is more broadly defined than CESA; take under FESA also includes significant habitat modification or degradation that could result in death or injury to a listed species by interfering with essential behavioral patterns such as breeding, foraging, or nesting. Consultation with the USFWS in order to comply with FESA is advised well in advance of any ground-disturbing activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). The CNDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Submitting-Data. The completed form can be

https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Submitting-Data. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDB at the following email address: CNDDB@wildlife.ca.gov. The types of information reported to CNDDB can be found at the following link: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Plants-and-Animals.

FILING FEES

If it is determined that the Project has the potential to impact biological resources, an assessment of filing fees will be necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Project to assist the City of Merced in identifying and mitigating the Project's impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols). If you have any questions, please contact Kelley Nelson, Environmental Scientist, at the address provided on this letterhead, or by electronic mail at Kelley.Nelson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Docusigned by:

Lunce Ferranti

Julie A. Vance

Regional Manager

Attachment

LITERATURE CITED

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2021. Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS). https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS. Accessed March 8, 2021.

SJKF Literature Citations

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- Cypher, B. L., S. E. Phillips, P. A. Kelly, 2013. Quantity and distribution of suitable habitat for endangered San Joaquin kit foxes: conservation implications. Canid Biology and Conservation 16(7): 25–31.
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CTS Literature Citations

- CDFW. 2015. California Tiger Salamander Technical Review Habitat, Impacts and Conservation. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, October 2015.
- Searcy, C.A. and H.B. Shaffer. 2011. Determining the migration distance of a vagile vernal pool specialist: How much land is required for conservation of California tiger salamanders? *In* Research and Recovery in Vernal Pool Landscapes, D. G. Alexander and R. A. Schlising, Eds. California State University, Chico, California.
- Searcy, C.A., E. Gabbai-Saldate, and H.B. Shaffer. 2013. Microhabitat use and migration distance of an endangered grassland amphibian. Biological Conservation 158: 80-87. Shaffer, H. B., J. R. Johnson, and I. J. Wang. 2013. Conservation Genetics of California tiger salamanders. Final Report prepared for Central Valley Project Conservation Program, Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento, California.
- USFWS. 2003. Interim Guidance on Site Assessment and Field Surveys for Determining Presence or a Negative Finding of the California Tiger Salamander, October 2003.
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USFWS. 2017. Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 8, Sacramento, California. June 2017.

TRBL Literature Citations

- Beedy, E. C., W. J. Hamilton III, R. J. Meese, D. A. Airola, and P. Pyle. 2017. Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), version 3.0. *in* The birds of North America. P. G. Rodewald (Ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, USA. https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.tribla.03
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- Kelsey, R. 2008. Results of the tricolored blackbird 2008 census. Report submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR, USA.
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- Orians, G.H. 1961. The ecology of blackbird (*Agelaius*) social systems. Ecol. Monogr. 31:285-312.
- Weintraub, K., T.L. George, and S.J. Dinsmore. 2016. Nest survival of tricolored blackbirds in California's Central Valley. The Condor 118(4): 850–861.

AMBA Literature Citations

- Gittleman, J. L., S. M. Funk, D. MacDonald, and R. K. Wayne, 2001. Carnivore conservation. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Zeiner, D. C., W. F. Laudenslayer, Jr, K. E. Mayer, and M. White. 1990. California's Wildlife Volume I-III. California Department of Fish and Game, editor. Sacramento, CA, USA.

WESP Literature Citations

Thomson, R. C., A. N. Wright, and H. Bradley Shaffer, 2016. California Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern. California Department of Fish and Wildlife and University of California Press

Attachment 1

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

PROJECT: John Smith Road Landfill- NOP State Clearinghouse No: 2021020371

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION	STATUS/DATE/INITIALS
MEASURE	
Before Disturbing Soil or Vegetation	
Mitigation Measure 1: SJKF Habitat	
Assessment	
Mitigation Measure 2: SJKF Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 4: Focused CTS Protocol-	
level Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 5: CTS Avoidance	
Mitigation Measure 7: TRBL Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 8: TRBL Avoidance	
Mitigation Measure 9: TRBL Take Avoidance	
Mitigation Measure 10: AMBA Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 11: AMBA Avoidance	
Mitigation Measure 12: WESP Surveys	
Mitigation Measure 13: WESP Avoidance	
During Construction	
Mitigation Measure 3: SJKF Take	
Authorization	
Mitigation Measure 6: CTS Take	
Authorization	

1 Rev. 2013.1.1